(c) whether there is also a fixed term for which they are appointed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a procedure for removing the Director/Joint Director of NCERT appointed by Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (0 The appointment of Director/Joint Director of NCERT is made by the Government of India from out of a panel of names submitted by search/selection committee of educationists and experts, constituted for this purpose. The rules of NCERT pertaining to such appointment do not specify a fixed term. The Government being the appointing authority fix the term on a case to case basis but generally Government have been fixing a period of five years subject to age of superannuation. The procedure for removing the Director/Joint Director of NCERT is governed by the contracts they are required to sign with the NCERT. Such contracts provide for removal through either CCS Rules or some other specific procedure.

Sanskrit Courses in Universities

3605. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give impetus to Sanskrit and the relevant courses;

(b) if so, what are the new courses introduced and in which Universities; and

(c) to what extent these courses are likely to give job opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) The Government of India already implements various schemes/programmes for the development of Sanskrit. They are being implemented among others by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, through its 8 constituent Vidyapeethas/Sodh Sansthans and 21

Adarsh Mahavidyalayas. Further, two Deemed Universitites, i.e. Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, (New Delhi) and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, (Tirupati) impart education at various levels through the medium of Sanskrit and offer facilities for research.

Besides, under the Central Plan Scheme of Development of Sanskrit Education, financial assistance to Deemed Universities is also given to improve the methodology of teaching Sanskrit

In addition CBSE offers Sanskrit as one of the elective subjects as one of the languages. At the school level, about 1.17 lakh students now offer Sanskrit as an elective subject at the secondary level in CBSE schools. Board has also introduced communicative approach to teach Sanskrit in all schools after testing it as a pilot project last year.

(b) Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, started a one year course in Sanskrit Language and Sanskrit Literature in the academic year 2000-01 and a short term course in Vastu Shastra in 2001-02. In addition, 435 Sanskrit speaking centres have been set up by University Grants Commission in various colleges and institutions.

(c) These courses have been started because there was a demand for them and will give opportunity for higher studies, research work and teaching in Sanskrit.

Regional Engineering Colleges

3606. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Regional Engineering Colleges in the country indicating their locations, State-wise;

(b) the scheme of their financing/funding;

(c) whether Government have recently decided to accord Deemed University Status to some of these RECs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the advantages/benefits/privileges of gaining aforesaid status by RECs;